



David Stewart MSP

standing up for the Highlands and Islands

Lismore Ferry

01 September 2008

David Stewart, Highlands and Islands Labour MSP, is asking the Scottish Government when an assessment will be carried out on the future of ferry services to Lismore.

Following a surgery recently in Oban a constituent raised questions over progress following long term local appeals for a vehicle ferry from Appin to Point.

"This has been an issue for a number of years – and although views are split about making the Appin service a vehicle ferry – it is a much supported proposal from local people and businesses," said Mr Stewart.

There are two ferry services to Lismore. Cal Mac runs a 50 minute vehicle and passenger service from Oban to Achnacroish and there is the Appin service which makes its crossing in 10 minutes.

"My constituent has pointed out that the speed of the crossing to Appin means that it can be a lifeline when people have a medical emergency.

"However, currently the patient has to be stretchered onto the ferry rather than have a service where the ambulance can go onboard," said Mr Stewart.

The last administration had identified that there would have to be a STAG (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) report to determine what the infrastructure costs would be to implement such a proposal but as yet this has not been carried out.

He added: "I have asked the Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson to progress this issue as a matter of urgency. The ferry provision for Lismore is vital to its economic development and future prosperity."

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